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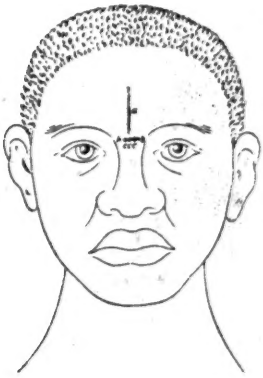
Fig. 4. Forehead Tattoo. One-third natural size [as shown in the original text].



a, Longitudinal line
b, Crossbar
} Both formed by countless small incisions which are indicated by the lines.

c, Deeper and longer incisions in the crossbar.

Usually green pigment is rubbed into the tattoo.

Boys and girls are tattooed at about 12 to 14 years of age (also earlier and later) and, of course, by the "doctor" or by the "woman doctor." Special ceremonies or the like are not observed on this occasion, but the operation is performed in the bush away from the settlement. As many young people as possible come from several settlements to be tattooed, but in any case this is only for practical reasons. On this occasion
527 festivities are also held, that is, eating and dancing, but these festivities are only indirectly connected with the tattooing. Whenever several /142/ Bushmen are together, if they have

/142 cont./

527 ample food, they always "celebrate."

304 The tattoo artist receives no special fee; he is simply provided with food and shelter.

When the forehead tattoo is applied, the patient lies on his back with his head slightly raised. The skin of the forehead above the root of the nose is folded together and drawn up by a man using his thumbs and index fingers. The tattoo artist then makes the little transverse incisions in this fold of skin.

Among men, decorative scars take the place of a hunt record. [224] For each piece of big game that a man has killed, he wears a horizontal decorative scar, on the right upper arm for male game and on the left upper arm for female game.

[858] Only boys, not men, have scars made for small game (duiker, ibex). Older successful hunters finally dispense altogether with having scars made, after they have enough of them to display.

These decorative scars are made in a manner similar to that used for the forehead tattoo. Sweat (blood) from the killed ani- [237] mal is always rubbed into them, and usually also the green pigment. The hunting scars are made by any one of the older men. The length of the scars is approximately one-half to one centimeter, the breadth approximately one-quarter to one-half centimeter.

Decorative Scars (or Tattooing) among Women

Green decorative scars on the upper thigh and buttocks up to the waist are worn by all women. These scars can be seen in Photograph 14.

[887] The scars are made in the same way as the forehead tattoo, except that older women make them.

Further investigation was impossible since the Bushmen are very suspicious regarding their women. I am quite content to have succeeded in taking at least one photograph which illustrates these decorative scars tolerably well.

Men and women pierce their earlobes in precisely the same way as is customary among us.

Circumcision is not practiced.

According to statements of the Auin, the labia minora are sometimes clipped.